



MEMBERS EXCHANGE

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
THE AMERICAN MEDALLIC SCULPTURE ASSOCIATION

2023 Vol. 42 ISSUE 4

AMSA *at* FIDEM



XXXVII FLORENCE 2023



American Delegate medal by Eva Wohn
inspired by the beauty of the Ponte Vecchio in
Florence, cast in Hydrostone and individually
hand-painted in three versions to reflect the
colors at dawn, midday, and twilight.
3 1/2" diameter.

FLORENCE
ITALY



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Or send a check to
American Medallic Sculpture Assoc.
PO Box 1201
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US and Canada \$45
Student \$25
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

Many of you know that this has been a rather busy few months for AMSA. We have initiated a mid-year appeal for funds, in the hopes that members will contribute to a fund that will in turn contribute back to AMSA artists and friends as it builds up capital. Thank you to everyone who has contributed already; and please note that you can still do so. If you did not receive the letter, please let me know.

We also had a members' Zoom meeting, which I think was successful. While all members were not able to attend, a significant number did, sharing good ideas and information. If the timing for the last zoom did not work for you, please contact me to suggest one that might. We will continue to try these meetings, in the hope of involving all members.

Also, this October saw the 2023 FIDEM congress in Florence, Italy. AMSA was well represented, and the members who attended were able to have a number of small reunions with folks we have not seen since the 2018 congress in Ottawa. As well, plenty of first-time face-to-face meetings came to pass, among AMSA members and others, many of whom had gotten to know each other virtually as the COVID pandemic unfolded. I was fortunate enough to be able to bring two of my students with me, and so would like to pass on my thanks to all those in attendance who spent time talking with them, both about medals and about their futures. My students were truly impressed by the friendliness and knowledge of our AMSA members.

In a strange coincidence, the December 2023 issue of Smithsonian magazine has a cover article titled, "Move Over Michelangelo, Can A Robot Replace the World's Greatest Artists?", about using robots to create sculptures. Titles like this are always meant to shock – after all, they are trying to sell magazines – but reading the article immediately got me thinking of the work and techniques that Jim Licaretz presented at the FIDEM congress. After reading this, I think I would love to have others discuss it at some upcoming AMSA zoom. I value the opinions of our members, and suspect you all realize the answer to the question posed on the Smithsonian cover is not a simple 'yes' or 'no.'

As 2024 opens, one of the next issues I'd like to address is how to increase our membership. I think a concerted effort by all the members will be much more productive than one by me alone. As I have said, I think an easy way may be for every member to simply bring up AMSA to a friend who has any interest in medals, be it as a sculptor, a collector, or in any other role. Encourage them to join. But there have to be other means as well, though. We'll explore them.

I think I may end up having a standard close to these AMSA Members Exchange president's columns – if you have ideas or questions, please e-mail or text me, at: benvenma@udmercy.edu, or 248-219-5430. Thank you.



AMSA AT THE XXXVII FIDEM CONGRESS FLORENCE, ITALY, 2023

Jeanne Stevens-Sollman
US FIDEM Delegate

Florence. Florence. She calls us. The Duomo, The David, and Donatello. But the medals from all over the world call us through FIDEM's XXXVII Congress, finally bringing us together for some beautiful October days, 10 through 14, held at the Grand Hotel Baglioni, established in 1903 near the iconic Ponte Vecchio. The Congress had two and a half days of lectures and presentations plus a medals fair on Saturday morning.

On Tuesday at the meeting of the Executive and Consulting Committees, Delegates and Vice Delegates changes of offices were announced. After supervising the US Delegation for four Congresses, Delegate Jeanne Stevens-Sollman and Vice Delegate Jim Licaretz stepped down from their responsibilities, passing the torch to George Cuhaj as Delegate. Please welcome George, medalist, editor, collector, curator, and historian, as he begins his journey on January 1, 2024.

The US Delegation once again hosted the opening reception on Tuesday evening for all the foreign Delegates as well as members of the US Delegation. All attendees were presented a medal created by US FIDEM member Eva Wohn who created and produced a delightful image of the Ponte Vecchio. Indeed, a wonderful souvenir of the Congress.

There were 17 members from the United States attending the Congress giving AMSA President Mark Benvenuto an opportunity to hold an AMSA meeting to discuss future AMSA events and membership drive.

Those members giving presentations were:

- Roxana Nistor and Hazel Song, students of AMSA President Mark Benvenuto, spoke on low-melting elemental metals and alloys, graphite molds, and materials affordable to those who teach. A lively talk with examples of medals and graphite molds which were passed around to the audience.
- Keiko Kubota-Miura, sculptor, and medalist, spoke on the enduring spiritual energy of the 2020 FIDEM US Delegation medal, its creation and legacy. Keiko explained the process of creating this medal and others.
- Jim Licaretz, sculptor, and medalist, talked about the creation of a medal from scan to final medal through two 3D modeling programs. His medals of John Lewis and Volodymyr Zelensky are fine examples of this technique.
- Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, sculptor and medalist, discussed how emotions can influence creating a medal and raising awareness in society. The medals of George Floyd, Senator John Lewis, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg were among those mentioned.
- James Melonbeach gave a heartfelt talk about the inspiration and creation of his Ron Dutton medal.



*The Grand Hotel Baglioni,
the location of the lectures, opening reception,
gala dinner and medal fair
top: The Arno River near the FIDEM exhibit at the
National Library of Florence*



US attendees: First row (seated) Mashiko, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Lindley Briggs, Anne-Lise Deering; Second Row (standing) George Cuhaj, Ira Rezak, Keiko Kubota-Miura, Alan Stahl, Roxana Nistor, Hazel Song, Heidi Wastweet, Eugene Daub; Back row (standing). Jim Licaretz, Jeffrey Briggs, Mark Benvenuto, James Malonebeach. (camera shy: Amanullah Haidersaid). Photo by Toshi Yamada.



- Ira Rezak, scholar and collector, gave an insightful talk on "Coins and Medals as Amulets and Talismans". Referencing the late John Cook, who created the FIDEM US Delegation medal for Florence in 1983, he said "if medalists want the objects they produce to be sought out by others, they would do well to reflect upon the reasons people seek out and treasure amulets."
- Alan M. Stahl, former US FIDEM Delegate, and current medals curator at Princeton University, discussed the complicated issue of medals by committee—the Historic Metallique of Louis XIV. Many of us can identify with these historic complaints.





Philip Atwood
FIDEM President

In all there were 35 lectures presented in two and one-half days. Of course, choices had to be made to attend the lectures of interest. However, each one will be published in the spring issue of *Medailles*. The opening reception for the medals exhibit was held on Wednesday evening at the Biblioteca Nazionale. A reception at the Museum Nazionale del Bargello on Thursday evening left us in awe of being in the presence of a myriad of sculptures and reliefs by sculptor Donatello. Friday was an optional studio tour to Picchiani and Barlacchi by bus, and then on Monday a short post-congress tour of the Italian State Mint and the Scuola dell Arte della Medaglia, Rome.

Our parting gala dinner at the rooftop restaurant at the Baglioni on Saturday evening was punctuated by award presentations by President Philip Attwood.

As the Congress closed and we said our goodbyes, we look forward to saying hello to Munich, Germany, where the next Congress will be held in 2025.

We thank the host country, Italy, for this wonderful Congress, and the host Delegate Valeria Vettore for all the hard work in organizing this Congress as well as her diligence in installing the exhibition of over 600 medals.

FIDEM AWARDS

This XXXVII Congress will be the last time the Jason A. Pollack Memorial Award for Innovative Techniques in Medalllic Art will be given. While it was difficult to choose this year's recipient because there were so many medals that qualified for this award, it was given to Israeli medalist Tal Lavi for her medal "Honey A." Unfortunately, the entire Delegation from Israel was unable to attend the Congress due to the war with Hamas, so Tal's award was sent to her.



Jason A. Pollack Memorial Award for
Innovative Techniques in Medalllic Art



The **FIDEM Grand Prix** went to Grazyna Jolanta Lindau from Switzerland for her cast bronze medal *Dementia*.

"The tree of life is like a memory. It loses its leaves, like people lose the ability to recollect. Visible holes appear just like the memory becomes a sieve. The brain stops remembering. Sometimes there are animals that bring peace, solace and remind of forgotten reality."





Above: Eugene Daub with Mashiko
left: Amanullah Haiderzad and Dr. Haiderzad
Below left: Mike and Anne-Lise Deering
Below:
Five Saltus Award Winners
Hanna Jelonek, Mashiko, Geer Steyn, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Eugene Daub



photo credit James Malonebeach



Medalists at the medal fair:
Filipa Batista and Joao Bernado dos Santos of Portugal with Jeanne Stevens-Sollman and Keiko Kubota-Miura



photo credit George Cuhaj

The "Art-Valley51" award from Belgium delegate Paul Huybrechts, for "the most extraordinary career", was given to Eugene Daub, the still active 81-year-old artist.



Three FIDEM awards consisting of medals by Bogomil Nikolov as follows: the young artist award to Kiki Birtles of the UK for her medal *Inherited*; the collectors' award to João Duarte, who has recently presented his collection of contemporary Portuguese medals to the Municipal Museum of Crato; and the Pro Liberalitate Tua medal to Alain Baron for his generous support of the exhibition catalogue. FIDEM medals were given to Valeria Vettorato for her invaluable work on the exhibition and catalogue, to Rosa Maria Villani for arranging the competition for the official medal at the Scuola dell'Arte della Medaglia, and to Matteo Parri and Caterina Dali of Picchiani & Barlacchi for facilitating the visit to the firm and helping to make the congress such a success. These awards were presented at the Gala dinner on Saturday evening.

During the General Assembly on Saturday afternoon, the following awards were presented:

The Mel Wacks Judaica Art Medal Award was given to Hanna Jelonek of Poland.



The Cuhaj Family Prize for Artist Under 30 was given to Stancheva Vasilena of Bulgaria

The Jason A. Pollack Award for Innovative Techniques in Medallion Art was given to Lavy Tal of Israel.

The Art Valley 51 prizes were given to Tong Fang of China, Beni Debacker of Belgium, Eugen Daub of the US, Anna Watrobska of Poland, and Danius Drulus from Lithuania.



The Order of Chiquita by James Malonebeach was awarded to Marie-Astrid Voisin Pelsdonk, who is the FIDEM General Secretary and congress organizer extraordinaire. Pictured here with her beautiful family who accompanied her to Italy.



photo from Hotel Baglioni rooftop by Mark Benvenuto



Our youngest participants from the US enjoying their first FIDEM; Roxana Nistor and Hazel Song

HANNA JELONEK WINS THE MEL WACKS JUDAICA ART MEDAL AWARD



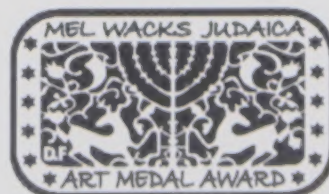
The winner of the 2023 Mel Wacks Judaica Art Medal Award for the best medal shown at FIDEM featuring a Judaic or biblical theme was Hanna Jelonek for her homage to "The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising" by sculptor Nathan Rapoport, installed in Warsaw and Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. The medal commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, led by the youthful Mordecai Anielewicz, who is portrayed by Jelonek and Rapoport as a more mature man.

The uprising was the largest single revolt by Jews during World War II; a total of 13,000 Jews were killed.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the uprising was "one of the most significant occurrences in the history of the Jewish people."

The award-winning medal was commissioned by the Association of The Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. A short video showing the creation of Jelonek's medal can be seen at <https://youtu.be/t7Tozs4OwKk>.

Hanna Jelonek received an engraved silver ingot from the Jewish-American Hall of Fame and \$250 from the Hebrew Union College's Skirball Museum in Cincinnati.



FIDEM EXCURSIONS

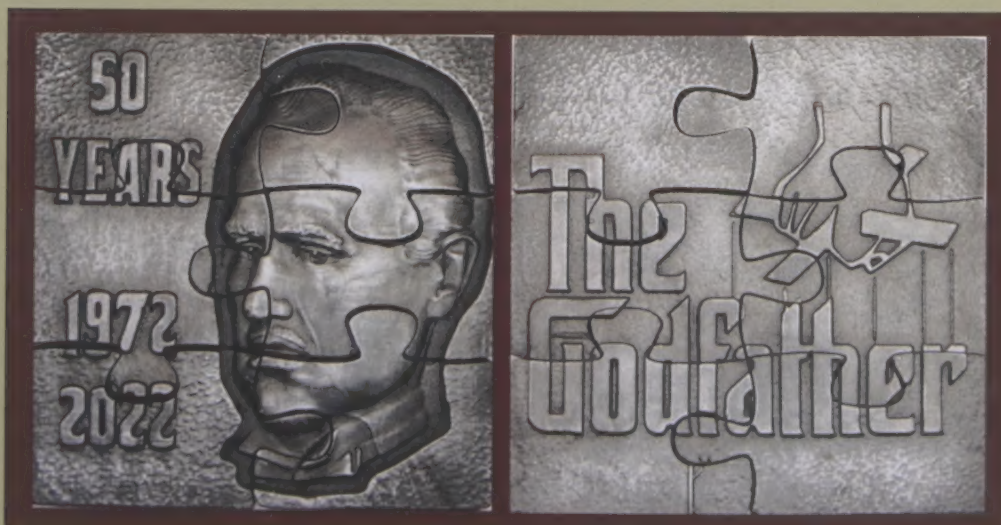
fig. 1-2 Evening at Bargello Museum
fig. 3-7 Picchiani and Barlacchi
fig. 8 Tour of Jason Arkles Studio
fig. 9 State Mint in Rome
fig. 10 School of Art Medals



NEW AMSA POSTER



Thanks to Mark Benvenuto and several of his students, AMSA has a new promotional poster. The plan is to make a number of these throughout the year. Submissions for the next poster are due in March 2024. Digital files will be available for members to print and hang in any location to spread the word about our organization and educate the public about the medium of art medals. If you would like a copy of the poster, please contact Mark and he will sent you a link for the file. It can be printed any size - as you can see! This extra large version is on view at University of Detroit Mercy.



NEW WORK FROM JIM LICARETZ

The Godfather
6 piece medal
Onyx resin and atomized aluminum with brushed finish



TO ERR IS HUMAN

MEL WACKS

I commiserated when the Vatican made an error in the spelling of Jesus's name on a medal issued in 2013. I can think of a number of instances where errors were caught (or not caught) at various stages of production of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals over the past half-century.



Pictures courtesy of Italian State Mint

Embarrassed Vatican officials recalled around 6,000 of the gold, silver and bronzed medals commemorating the first year of Pope Francis's reign after it was discovered that Jesus's name was misspelled "LESUS." The Latin inscription reads: "Jesus therefore sees the tax collector, and since he sees by having mercy and by choosing, he says to him, follow me."

The first time it happened to me was in 1973, when I checked out the biblical quote on the Haym Salomon plaster model that was on the way to the mint. The quote was correct, but the verse was wrong: "PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND LEV. 52:10." It should have read "LEV. 25:10." The mint made the change and no error medals were produced.



Pictures courtesy of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame

In 1985, I received a call from Seymour Fromer, Director of the Magnes Museum, who was my mentor. He had received a photo of the plaster model and noticed an error in the name of the honoree. It was indicated as "ADOLF S. OCHS" — but Fromer pointed out that it should be spelled "ADOLPH OCHS." The plasters were already at the mint, but fortunately the dies had not yet been made. The Johnson Matthey Mint made the correction.



The only extant picture of the original plaster model with name misspelled "ADOLF S. OCHS."

Picture courtesy of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame.

Adolph Ochs bronze medal with correct spelling of "ADOLPH." Picture courtesy of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame

It even happened on my personal medal, that commemorated both my 70th birthday and the 40th anniversary of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame. The models were at the mint, dies had been made, and the mint had sent me a few sample medals that I could photograph for press releases and the brochure. The printer who was producing the brochures emailed me and told me that the Hebrew date for my 70th birthday did not correspond to the regular calendar date. The medal indicated "5678," corresponding to 1918, when it should have been "5768," corresponding to 2008. Fortunately, the regular medal run had not started, and so the plaster model was returned to the medalist Eugene Daub, who made the change and overnighted it back to the mint. A new obverse die was made and the medals produced.



Mel Wacks bronze medal
with correct date of "5768."



In 2011, the entire production run of the medals was received when I noticed the error. The date for Gertrude Elion's Nobel Prize in Medicine was prominently inscribed as "1989." It should have been "1988." I figured it was a total loss — like the Vatican's situation — but The Highland Mint advised me that they could revise the die and restrike all of the medals. I kept a few of the errors, returned the rest, and the mint did such a great job that you can't detect the overstruck date on the final medals.



Gertrude Elion
bronze medal with
correct date of
"1988"



When I told numismatic editor Fred Reed about the Vatican medal error, he wisely said: "The only people who have never made a typo or misspelling are those who haven't done much of anything." And I couldn't agree more.

You can see the 52 medals produced thus far by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame at www.amuseum.org/jahf. Hopefully, when you take a look, you won't find any errors.



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GENEROUS

DONOR RECOGNITION

This year we made an appeal for donations to strengthen AMSA's resources for future programs and our membership came through. We'd like to take a minute to thank those who stepped forward in generosity. These funds will enable more programs and exhibits in the near future. Thank you all!



- Mark Benvenuto
- Yefkin Megherian
- Art Ellis
- Tanya Karpiak
- Don Everhart
- Carter Jones
- Ross Pollard
- Philip Listengart
- Janet Indick
- Jeanne Stevens-Sollman
- Jim Licaretz
- Robert Ongaro
- Mashiko
- Cory Gilliland, in memory of her husband Tommy

Total raised \$2960



Feeling inspired to contribute? There is an easy donate button on the front page of the website. Or send a check to American Medallic Sculpture Assoc.
PO Box 1201
Edmonds WA 98020
Please consider adding a donation along with your yearly dues for the new year.

BROOKGREEN GARDENS MEDAL WORKSHOP

Heidi Wastweet

This year's medal workshop was once again a delightful tornado of creativity. There were ten participants, including a local college student, Autumn Belvin, who received a scholarship from Brookgreen to attend her choice of workshops. The participants' experience ranged from absolute beginner to a professional stone carver. All the medals were finished and rubber molds made in class. Then, the bronzes were cast at Brodin Studios. Docent, Marinell Rollins, chose Wheeler Williams' panther sculpture as the subject for the class demonstration medal. The next Medal Workshop, May 13-17, 2024, is full but there is a waiting list.



Counter-clockwise from the top:
Class demonstration medal by
Heidi Wastweet; Oak leaves by
Tracy Mahaffey; Hibiscus/Volcano by
Autumn Belvin; Peacocks by Cathy
Pilone; The Oaks Gate by Mary Hickey;
Chains /Pyramid by David Motta;
Gord Lanterns by Kasi Ciupek;
Purple Glimpse by
Chris Kunk





Chris Kiunk, park docent Jane Meryl Bernstein, Autumn Belvin, Tracy Mahaffey, David Motta, Kasi Ciupek, Heidi Wastweet, Marinell Rollins, Cathy Pilone



Above: wax castings out of the rubber molds made in class

Below: Bryan Rapp, sculptor and the Director of the Wallace Master Sculptor Program at Brookgreen Gardens



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

THE FOURTH NEW APPROACH INTERNATIONAL MEDALLIC SCULPTURE COMPETITION FOR EMERGING ARTISTS IS OPEN THROUGH JUNE 2024

Support by Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Withington - sponsored by New Approach and Medialia Gallery
The prospectus and online application form will be available at medialiagallery.com

1st Prize: Robin and Frederic Withington Award Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Withington	\$1,000
2nd Prize: David Simpson Memorial Award; Statements of Concern Sponsored by the Simpson family	\$500
3rd Prize: Innovative use of Technique/Material Award Sponsored by Medialia Gallery	\$350
Ann Shaper Pollack Award For the American Artist Sponsored by the Pollack family	\$350
Collector's purchase awards: Masaharu Kakitsubo Award: the Most Imaginative Work	\$250
Mary N. Lannin: Award for the Coin Design*	\$250
Roslyn and Scott Miller Award: Excellence in Bas-Relief	\$250
Ira Rezak Award: Theme of A Current Political Comment	\$250
Donald Scarinci Award: Figurative Subject	\$250
Stephen Scher Award: Portrait Medal	\$250

Competition theme: *HARMONY* Celebrating the hope that the differences among people all over the world can be harmoniously resolved

Eligibility: Artists born after 1985

Digital submission deadline: June 30, 2024

Work exhibition duration: Fall, 2024 case exhibition Jersey City Heights, NJ, USA
and ongoing digital exhibition. Contact newapproach.competition@gmail.com

JURORS

- **Gwen Pier** - Executive Director, National Sculpture Society, USA
- **Dr. Peter van Alfen** - Chief Curator at the American Numismatic Society
- **Dr. Alan Stahl** - Curator of Numismatics at Princeton University, past USA Delegate of FIDEM
- **Philip Attwood** - President of FIDEM, former Keeper of Coins & Medals at The British Museum
- **Maria Rosa Figueiredo** - Vice President of FIDEM, former Curator at Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon, Portugal
- **Mashiko** - Founder and Director of New Approach and Medialia Gallery, past USA Delegate of FIDEM
Former Master Lecturer at The University of The Arts, Philadelphia, Sculpture Department

SPONSORS

Robin and Frederic Withington have been married for sixty-nine years and have a family that includes three great-grandchildren. They have lived in many places but for the last forty years in New York City. Frederic graduated from Williams College and was a computer consultant, retiring as a Vice President of Arthur D. Little, Inc. He wrote four books about the computer industry. Robin graduated from Smith College and has worked as a volunteer for numerous organizations. For many years they have been collecting medals as both historical documents and as works of art. Frederic is a Life Fellow of the American Numismatic Society, and both he with Robin are members of the New York Numismatic Club. Their encouragement and contributions made the establishment Medialia Gallery's nonprofit organization, *New Approach*, possible in 2001. They share a hope that the art of the medal, and scholarship for its past, will continue to flourish into the future.

David Baruch Simpson (1938-2022) was an avid reader and a true intellectual who absorbed astonishing amounts of information from a wide range of publications in both the legal and art fields. He was a passionate numismatist for much of his life, collecting first coins, and later branching out to medallic art. He was a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society, serving on its Council for several years, and was actively involved with the New York Numismatic Club, serving as President from 2002-2004, and later on its Board of Directors. His extensive collection of medallic art showed David's keen interest in German and other satiric issues of World War I which often depicted the horrors and brutality of warfare. David enthusiastically supported modern medallic artists, promoting the future of medallic art. His wife, Nancy Simpson, and family, continue to support David's interest in the field.

Ann Shaper Pollack (1933-2022) was an accomplished artist who worked in a variety of mediums, including jewelry, silversmithing, sculpture, and medallic art. She was a member of numerous national/international medallic art organizations and the president of AMSA from 1997-1999. Ann Pollack and her husband Jason were enthusiastic supporters of aspiring students of the medallic arts and also major contributors to *New Approach* projects, particularly the annual traveling International student exhibition *New Ideas In Medallic Sculpture* (1996-2020). Ann established the Pollack Award for an American artist from 2004 through 2013. After Jason deceased, Ann was an enthusiastic supporter of the New Approach International Medallic Art Competition for Emerging Artists. New Approach will continue to sponsor The Ann Pollack Award for the fourth competition.

Masaharu Kakitsubo is the director of a private mint, Shoei, in Tokyo. He is a collector of Japanese art medals dating from the early through mid 1900s, as well as plaster medal molds from the same period. He is also a supporter and enthusiastic collector of international medallic art. Also, his passion is promoting medallic art to the public and emerging artists. He has been one of the major contributors to New Approach projects.

Mary N. Lannin served on the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC), an advisory body to the United States Mint. She is a Life Member of the American Numismatic Society and is currently serving as Vice President of the New York Numismatic Club. Current collecting interests are pedigreed coins, especially from women's collections as well as early collectors of the 20th century, and their interactions with dealers and with each other.

Scott Miller is a long-time collector and researcher of medallic art, especially those of the United States, France, and Great Britain. His book, *Medallic Art of the American Numismatic Society, 1865-2014*, was published in 2015. Ira Rezak has been collecting and studying medals, mostly focusing on Jewish and Medical themes, for more than sixty years.

Donald Scarinci is the senior member of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC), an advisory board to the United States Mint, and a nominator of the annual Krause Coin of the Year Award. He has authored four books and lectures regularly on the topic of coin and art medal design. His extensive collection of art medals is considered one of the largest privately held collections in the United States.

Stephen K. Scher has lectured and published extensively on medieval and Renaissance art. His medal catalogs include *The Scher Collection of Commemorative Medals* and *The Currency of Fame: Portrait Medals of the Renaissance* after curating an exhibition of the same title for the Frick Collection. In 2017, Scher and his wife, Janie Woo, donated their extensive medal collection to the Frick Collection in New York City.





MEDAL COLLECTORS OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEDAL

THE FRUITS OF COLLECTING
BY NATASHA RATCLIFFE

Cast bronze, 83 x 81 x 6 mm (3 inches)

Edition size: 50

Available on the MCA website

A squirrel in a barren landscape drops an acorn into a hole as clouds roll by. The passage of time happens along the edge; the rain falls from the clouds onto the land, and the seasons pass, leaves falling from the trees down to the same earth. The horizon line is an uninterrupted ribbon around the medal. On the reverse, the same hole erupts with a network of roots and plants under a forest floor. From acorns, mighty oaks grow.

It is a medal to celebrate the fruits of collecting. A medal is like a single acorn, a seed that may sprout into an oak, splitting off into boughs and branches, and then twigs. New artists found; new links in history made; building a collection as unique as the growth of a tree. Perhaps, to own one is akin to having an acorn; a few, like a sapling; many, a tree. Each amount is momentous and beautiful in its own right. The room of a collector is like a forest.

A positive message of growth, luck, and fortune, of nature and creatures, of mighty oaks and tiny roots, of the power of transformation. Of the magic of vantage point, as the heavy tree canopy is also light morphing clouds. ...Medals are the ability to fit an entire world into your hand.

Natasha Ratcliffe (born 1982) is a United Kingdom medal artist based in Falmouth, Cornwall. She has a naturally playful approach fueled by nature and humanity. Her passion for process led her to build her own backyard foundry, where she casts most of her own work as well as these MCA medals. She established herself in the field of coins and medals after winning the BAMS New Medallist scholarship in 2005. Her light approach to translating ideas into small handheld pieces has attracted private collectors and awards. Her works are held by institutions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, Sweden's Royal Coin Cabinet, and Moscow's Pushkin Museum of Fine Art. She has designed coins circulated by the Royal Mint and has been commissioned by the Biochemical Society, The Art Fund, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, among others. Her work is regularly exhibited nationally and internationally.





OFFICIAL MEDAL of XXXVII FIDEM FLORENCE ITALY

*By Gabriele Carboni
Struck bronze, 60 mm
Edition size: 150*

Generously sponsored by the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, the State Mint of Italy, FIDEM organized a design contest among the students of the Scuola dell'Arte della Medaglia. The winning design was created by third-year student Gabriele Carboni. As of publishing, there are still some available on the FIDEM website.

